

REMARKS

In the claims, claims 1, 3-6, and 9 have been amended; claims 2, 7, and 8 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein; and new claims 10-29 have been added. Claims 1, 3-6, and 9-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, and 23 are the independent claims.

August 15, 2003 Interview

Examiner Davis kindly agreed to hold an interview on October 12, 2004 with the undersigned counsel regarding the Office Action dated October 8, 2004.

During the interview, Examiner Davis clarified that due to a clerical error, Claim 3 should have been objected to, rather than rejected. Further, Examiner Davis clarified that the prior art did not teach the limitations of claim 3. Lastly, the potential combination of claims 1-3 to overcome the prior art was discussed.

The applicant would like to thank the Examiner for her insightful search of the prior art, and her kind efforts in efficiently furthering prosecution of this case.

Claim Rejections: 35 U.S.C. §102(b): Claim 1, 2, and 7

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 7 on the basis of 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Smith (USPN 5,89,306).

Claim 1 has now been amended to include all the limitations of originally filed claims 1, 2, and 7, and to expressly recite that a symbol plate is adapted to “attach to” the housing, instead of “engage” the housing. Further, claim 1 now further recites “a cover.”

It is respectfully submitted that Smith does not anticipate claim 1 as amended, as Smith does not teach or suggest, expressly or implicitly, “at least one symbol plate adapted to attach to said housing.” In particular, Smith teaches that symbol plates are attached to a cover (see Smith, Fig. 5). Further, claim 1 now expressly sets forth a “cover,” which further distinguishes the recited housing from the recited cover; i.e., they are two distinct elements.

Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is now patentably distinguishable over the prior art, and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled, which now renders moot their rejected status.

Claim Objections: Claims 3-6, 8, and 9

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 3-6, 8, and 9 as depending upon one or more rejected base claims, but containing allowable subject matter. The applicant would like to thank the Examiner for her efforts in identifying these claims as containing allowable subject matter.

As can be seen from the above **Listing of Claims**, claims 3-6 have been amended to read more clearly, claim 8 has been canceled (without disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein), and claim 9 has been amended to now depend from newly amended claim 1.

Claims 3-6 and 9 depend from claim 1. Therefore, it is further respectfully submitted that for at least the reasons supporting the patentability of claim 1, claims 3-6 and 9 are also patentably distinguishable over the prior art, and are also in condition for allowance.

New Claims: Claims 13-22

Independent claim 13 includes all the limitations of original claims 1 and 4, which as noted by the Examiner in the Office Action, contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

New claims 14-23 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 13. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14-23 are also in condition for allowance.

New Claims: Claims 23-29

Independent claim 23 includes all the limitations of original claim 3, which as noted by the Examiner in the Office Action, contain allowable subject matter.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

New claims 24-29 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 13. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24-29 are also in condition for allowance.

REQUESTED ACTION

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-6, and 9-29 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests entry of this Amendment, and allowance of claims 1, 3-6, and 9-29. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if she has any questions or comments regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

December 17, 2004

Date


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